

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

1. Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Publication 2003/0156582 of Belgaied et al (hereafter “Belgaied”).
3. Claims 6, 12, and 19 were rejected under under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Belgaied in view of Vitander et al (hereafter “Vitander”).
3. The oath and declaration are defective. An appropriate new oath and declaration is included.

REMARKS

I. THE CITED REFERENCE CANNOT SUSTAIN A § 102 REJECTION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

The Examiner rejected the independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly unpatentable over Belgaid. The cited reference fails to disclose, teach, or suggest essential claim elements of the amendments alone or in combination. Essential claim elements of the independent Claim 1 include 1) a first network processor on a router parsing address header information examining flag values and transmitting the information packet to an output if a flag value does not match a predetermined value indicating a requirement for additional processing of control function data for that router, 2) a second signaling processor coupled to the first network processor, which transmits an information packet to the second signaling processor if there is a match to a predetermined value indicating a requirement for additional processing of control function data for that router, and 3) the second signaling processor processing control function data before transmitting the information packet to one of said outputs.

Essential claim elements of the independent Claim 8 include 1) receiving an information packet on an input to a router having a first processor performing fast-path processing coupled to a second processor performing slow-path processing, 2) checking a flag value in the information packet at the first processor to determine if the information packet requires slow-path processing on the second processor, 3) forwarding the information packet to an output on the router for transmission onto the network if the flag value does not match a predetermined value indicating requiring slow-path processing, 4) forwarding the information packet to the second processor for slow-path processing of

control function data in response to a match of the flag value, and 5) forwarding the information packet from the second processor to the output for transmission onto the network after the slow-path processing is completed.

Essential claim elements of the independent Claim 8 include 1) checking a flag value at a first processor in the router to determine if the information packet requires higher-level processing on a second processor, 2) forwarding the information packet to an output on the router for transmission onto the network if the flag value does not match a predetermined value indicating a requirement for higher-level processing, 3) forwarding the information packet to a second processor in the router for higher-level processing in response to a match of the flag value, 4) forwarding the information packet from the second processor to the output onto the network after higher-level processing is completed, and 5) retrieving specific control function data from the information packet during the higher-level processing.

Belgaied lacks these essential elements and does not teach, suggest, or disclose the invention. Belgaied does not disclose routers with two coupled processors, network or signaling processors, slow-path or fast-path processing, higher-level processing, a flag bit indicating a requirement for processing control function data or slow-path or higher-level processing, control function processing before transmitting a packet to an output, forwarding a packet to an output after higher-level processing is complete, and retrieving control function data during higher-level processing.

Belgaied teaches determining if a label to data needs be added, constructing a second header with the label, attaching the second header to the data, and transmitting the data. Routers with two processors are not disclosed (and these type router are not

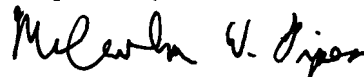
inherently disclosed – see *Invention Specification, p, 6, ln 12* (“Some routers are comprised of two types of components.”)), and it is impossible for the single-component routers disclosed in Belgaied to perform any part of the described operation of the invention. To sustain a § 102(e) rejection, Belgaied must suggest, disclose, or teach each and every one of the identified claim elements, which Belgaied fails to do, lacking any disclosure of these claim elements.

II. CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application because the Examiner’s 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections are believed to have been traversed by the present Response. Pending claims 1-20 are believed allowable because the claimed invention is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited reference. The combined references also fail to teach essential claim elements. Independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 are believed allowable because the rejections are believed traversed. Because the dependent claims add additional limitations to the allowable independent claims, those claims are likewise believed allowable.

It is believed that no additional fees are necessary for this filing. If additional fees are required for filing this response, then the appropriate fees should be deducted from D. Scott Hemingway’s Deposit Account No. 501,270.

Respectfully submitted,



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